fit is possible that Chinese architecture has been to a certain exWt determined by the climate.)The heavy summer rains make necessary sound, sturdy roofs if the house is to be protected, and one of the most prominent features of the Chinese building is the heavy tiled or thatched roof. #„

How far climatic conditions have altered within historic times we do not know. It is sometimes asserted that the North is drying up, but there seems to be no conclusive evidence cf progressive desiccation during the past three tljCMjsaiYt^^ar^ ^

'CHINA PROPER: MINERAL

^China proper is rather poorly stocked with useful minerals, Gold, silver, and copper are found in several of the provinces, but not in the rich deposits characteristic of some other countries.} The relative dearth of the precious metals, especially of gold, may account in part for the failure to use gold for currency and for the frequent recourse to paper money. China's store of sulphur, lead, and zinc is widely distributed but is probably inadequate to supply the needs of an extensive industrial development. China also possesses some tin — just how much is not known. rShe has important stores of tungsten and in antimony she dominates the world's markets.) Coal is found in every one of the eighteen provinces of China proper, and in some of the other ten. Experts' figures for the extent of these deposits vary greatly, but it seems probable that China possesses by far the largest coal reserves in the Far East. However, even the most enthusiastic recent estimates give her only a fourth of those of the United States. The more conservative appraisals — which are probably very much too low — credit her with less than one per

cent, of the reserves of the United States. Estimates as to the amounts to be found in the various provinces differ widely. Shensi and Shansi are said to have eighty-five per cent, of the whole. Other well-stocked provinces are Hopei, Hunan, Szechwan, Shensi, Kweichow, Yunnan, Honan, and Shantung. So far, no very great stores of petroleum have been discovered. Faulting appears to have drained away and metamorphism to have destroyed most of what natural reservoirs may once have existed. Iron ores are widely distributed. However, they are only a fraction of those of some of the great steel-producing countries of